

**Minutes of the Grinnell City Council Meeting  
Monday, February 20, 2006**

The City Council of the City of Grinnell met in regular session in the Council Chambers of the Grinnell Community Center, 927 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Grinnell, Iowa, at 7:00 p.m., Monday, February 20, 2006. Mayor Canfield presided.

Roll Call:               PRESENT:   McNaul, Wright, Worley, Witt, Wilson, White.  
                              ABSENT:     None.

**PERFECTING AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

Moved by WITT, second by MCNAUL, to approve the Agenda and the Consent Agenda as presented. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Witt, McNaul, Wilson, Wright, Worley, White.  
Motion carried.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

- A.     Previous minutes as drafted from the Monday, February 6, 2006 Regular Session.
- B.     Review of the request submitted by the We Care 2006 Prom Committee for wavier of fees for the use of the Community Center and Theater on Friday, April 28, 2006 through Sunday, April 30, 2006, and to restrict parking on Park Street between 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue on Saturday, April 29, 2006, from 3:00 – 6:30 p.m.
- C.     Review of the request submitted by the Chamber of Commerce to barricade the Community Center parking lot from 11:30 a.m. Friday, March 31, 2006, to 3:00 p.m. Saturday, April 1, 2006, for the Annual Home Show and Business Expo.

**PUBLIC HEARING:**

- A.     In regard to the plans, specifications, form of contract and cost for the Grinnell Trail Project.

Mayor Canfield opened the public hearing in regard the plans, specifications, form of contract and cost for the Grinnell Trail Project at 7:02 pm. Hage noted that no comments or objections had been received prior to the meeting. Canfield requested comments or objections from the citizens present. There were none.

Moved by WITT, second by WHITE, to close the public hearing at 7:03 pm. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Witt, White, Worley, McNaul Wilson, Wright.

Moved by MCNAUL, second by WRIGHT, to approve and adopt Resolution 2923: "A RESOLUTION ADOPTING PLANS, SPECIFICATIONS, ESTIMATE OF COST AND FORM OF CONTRACT FOR THE GRINNELL TRAIL PROJECT." Roll Call Vote:  
Ayes: McNaul, Wright, White, Wilson, Worley, Witt. Motion carried.

- B.     In regard to the specifications for the purchase of one new Hook Lift Unit, reversible snow plow, sander unit, and dump body. (See Resolution No. 2924 and Resolution No. 2925.)

Mayor Canfield opened the public hearing in regard the specifications for the purchase of one new Hook Lift Unit, reversible snow plow, sander unit, and dump body at 7:04

pm. Hage noted that no comments or objections had been received prior to the meeting. Canfield requested comments or objections from the citizens present. There were none.

Moved by WITT, second by MCNAUL, to close the public hearing at 7:05 pm. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Witt, McNaul, Worley, Wright, Wilson, White. Motion carried.

Moved by WITT, second by MCNAUL, to approve and adopt Resolution No. 2924: "A RESOLUTION ADOPTING PLANS, SPECIFICATIONS, ESTIMATE OF COST AND FORM OF CONTRACT" (Hook Lift Unit, Reversible Snow Plow, Sander Unit and Dump Body.) Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Witt, McNaul, White, Wilson, Wright, Worley. Motion carried.

Moved by WITT, second by MCNAUL, to approve and adopt Resolution No. 2925: "A RESOLUTION MAKING AWARD OF AN EQUIPMENT CONTRACT – HOOK LIFT UNIT, REVERSIBLE SNOW PLOW, SANDER UNIT, AND DUMP BODY." Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Witt, McNaul, Worley, Wright, Wilson, White. Motion carried.

#### COMMUNICATIONS/COMMITTEE MINUTES:

- A. Finance Committee: February 6, 2006
- B. Planning Committee: February 6, 2006
- C. Public Works and Grounds Committee: February 6 and 13, 2006
- D. Public Safety Committee: February 7, 2006
- E. Grinnell Tourism: February 15, 2006 and February Financials

#### COMMITTEE BUSINESS:

- A. Report from the Finance Committee.
  - o Schedule the public hearing in regard to the issuance of not to exceed \$100,000 General Obligation Capital Loan Notes for Monday, March 6, 2006, at 7:00 pm.

Moved by WHITE, second by WITT, to approve and adopt Resolution No. 2926: "RESOLUTION FIXING DATE FOR A MEETING ON THE PROPOSITION TO AUTHORIZE A LOAN AGREEMENT AND THE ISSUANCE OF NOTES TO EVIDENCE THE OBLIGATIONS OF THE CITY THEREUNDER" (Not to exceed \$100,000 General Obligation Capital Loan Notes.) Roll Call Vote: Ayes: White, Witt, Wilson, McNaul, Wright, Worley. Motion carried.

- o Schedule the public hearing in regard to the issuance of not to exceed \$150,000 General Obligation Capital Loan Notes for Monday, March 6, 2006, at 7:00 pm.

Moved by WHITE, second by WITT, to approve and adopt Resolution No. 2927: "RESOLUTION FIXING DATE FOR A MEETING ON THE PROPOSITION TO AUTHORIZE A LOAN AGREEMENT AND THE ISSUANCE OF NOTES TO EVIDENCE THE OBLIGATIONS OF THE CITY THEREUNDER" (Not to exceed \$150,000 General Obligation Capital Loan Notes.) Roll Call Vote: Ayes: White, Witt, Worley, McNaul, Wright, Wilson. Motion carried.

- Schedule the public hearing in regard to the issuance of not to exceed \$120,000 Taxable General Obligation Capital Loan Notes for Monday, March 6, 2006, at 7:00 pm. (See Resolution 2928.)

Moved by WHITE, second by WITT, to approve and adopt Resolution No. 2928: "RESOLUTION FIXING DATE FOR A MEETING ON THE PROPOSITION TO AUTHORIZE A LOAN AGREEMENT AND THE ISSUANCE OF NOTES TO EVIDENCE THE OBLIGATIONS OF THE CITY THEREUNDER" (Not to exceed \$120,000 Taxable General Obligation Capital Loan Notes.) Roll Call Vote: Ayes: White, Witt, Wright, Wilson, McNaul, Worley. Motion carried.

- Schedule the public hearing in regard to the FY07 Budget for Monday, March 6, 2006 at 7:00 pm.

Moved by WHITE, second by WITT, to schedule the public hearing in regard to the FY07 Budget for Monday, March 6, 2006 at 7:00 pm. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: White, Witt, Wilson, Wright, Worley, McNaul. Motion carried.

- Review of the Signage/Advertising Agreement for a billboard at the Iowa Speedway.

White explained the Hotel/Motel Committee has proposed an agreement with the Iowa Speedway for the installation of a billboard on the inside of the track wall. Questions remain about the price as it compares to the length of the season.

Moved by WHITE, second by WITT, to proceed with the billboard subject to the negotiation of the season.

Wilson commented the cost of the contract should cover from now until December, 2007.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: White, Witt, McNaul, Wilson, Worley, Wright. Motion carried.

- Review of the CDBG Contract for the property located at 421 Main Street.

Moved by WHITE, second by WITT, to approve and adopt Resolution No. 2929: "RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE CITY OF GRINNELL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT OWNER OCCUPIED HOUSING REHABILITATION CONTRACT FOR 421 MAIN STREET." Roll Call Vote: Ayes: White, Worley, Witt, Wright, Wilson, McNaul. Motion carried.

- Review of the requests for assistance from the Campbell Fund.

The requests were approved as presented.

The committee reviewed two inquires in regard to the rural fire association negotiations and Grinnell State Bank direct deposit water bill payments.

- B. Report from the Planning Committee.
  - Review of the Preliminary Plat for R & B Rental.

Worley reviewed the ongoing process for the development along the highway corridor. Completion of the process will likely take 60-90 days; however the city is working with the property owner and the developer to move the process as quickly as possible. The Planning and Zoning Commission recommends approval of the plat with the waiver.

Moved by WORLEY, second by WHITE, to approve and adopt Resolution No. 2930: "RESOLUTION APPROVING PRELIMINARY PLAT OF R & B RENTAL. CONTINGENT UPON THE ANNEXATION TO THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF THE CITY OF GRINNELL." with the addition of a waiver to eliminate the installation of the sidewalk on the east side of Spring Street South. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Worley, Wright, Wilson, McNaul, White, Witt. Motion carried.

- Review of the architectural building standards for IA Highway 146 & US Highway 6.

Moved by WORLEY, second by MCNAUL, to introduce and read Ordinance No. 1266: "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF THE CITY OF GRINNELL, IOWA BY AMENDING PROVISIONS PERTAINING TO CHAPTER 4, ARTICLE IV." (Architectural Standards – Iowa Highway 146 and US Highway 6 Corridors.) Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Worley, McNaul, White, Witt, Wright, Wilson. Motion carried.

- Review of the proposed Appendix to the Comprehensive Plan related to Highway 146 South.

This item has been returned to the Planning and Zoning Commission for the first public hearing.

- Update in regard to the proposed voluntary annexations for Highway 146 South.

This issue continues to move forward. The petitions have been submitted to the attorney and forwarded to the county. It will take 60-90 days to complete the official process.

- Discussion in regard to compost and brush management.

This item was forwarded to the Public Works and Grounds Committee.

- Discussion in regard to a lighting ordinance.

Worley commented in regard to the city's support of the adoption of a Dark Skies Initiative.

Bob Cadmus, 824 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue, explained the Dark Skies program and how it impacts safety, aesthetics, and preserves resources. This process can be implemented without incurring costs or penalties. The approach is long term and will expand over time. The citizen group is concerned if a comprehensive lighting scheme is not adopted, future generations will not be able to enjoy the night sky. The ordinance proposed addresses light pollution and light trespass. Some people become concerned about how existing fixtures will be addressed.

Olivia Queathem, 1415 Summer Street, stated her Girl Scout troop visits the observatory and hopes the sky will be protected to allow for its continued use.

Liz Queathem, 1415 Summer Street, supports the control of current and new lighting.

Henry Walker, 1432 Summer Street, addressed the control of light and how it does not impact safety issues. Adjusting parking lot lighting and over lighting of areas will improve the night vision for drivers. The goal should be to limit waste while maintaining safety.

JR Paulson, 1532 Broad Street, stated the dark sky is a natural resource. Seeing the sky for several Grinnell visitors is often times a new experience. Paulson reviewed the impact of light pollution on the environment. He presented several articles relating to bird migrations in addition to potential cost savings.

Otto Hall, 1801 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue, commented in regard to the ineffectiveness of current lighting. He supports the conservation of energy.

Rich Dana, coordinator of the E-community program, presented statistics from communities who have implemented this type of program to prove the savings in reduced energy costs and the significant impact economically and environmentally. He offered staff resources to research the program.

Lucille Ahrens, 1005 Broad Street, does not like the new headlights on vehicles that appear blue in color. She feels they are blinding. She also does not feel the lights should be dimmed in the downtown area.

The planning committee has directed city staff to prepare a draft ordinance for committee review. Behrens will work with the Dark Skies Initiative group to move the issue forward. The draft will be presented at the next regular meeting.

- C. Report from the Public Works and Grounds Committee.
  - o Discussion in regard to compost and brush management.

The Public Works and Grounds and Planning Committee met to review the implementation of a possible burning ban. Staff will provide research for committee review.

- o Review the Storm Water Utility Ordinance (Please Note: This ordinance is a working draft.)

This item will be discussed at a special committee session scheduled for Tuesday, February 21, 2006 at 6:30 pm.

- D. Report from the Public Safety Committee  
(Please Note: This meeting was held on Tuesday, February 7, 2006.)
  - o Review of the request by Windsor Manor for the installation of a stop light.

The committee determined the installation of the light was not necessary based on previous traffic studies. However, the corridor will be reviewed by the IDOT and the committee will reconsider the intersection after their study is completed.

- o Discussion in regard to wrecker services for the Police Department.

Chief Matherly reviewed current administrative procedures in regard to how wrecker services are utilized. Matherly will be drafting a formal policy for committee review.

- Review of traffic statistics in the Central Business District.

Review of the statistics has shown thus far the reduction of speed in the Central Business District and the implementation of two-way traffic has not caused any traffic accidents.

- Discussion in regard to the meeting with Mr. George Oster.

Wilson explained the meeting with Oster assisted the city in determining priorities in the current negotiation of the rural fire agreements. The committee was able to determine the rural fire association is a formal entity and does have the legal authority to enter into agreement with the city. The city has requested the association establish a levy as opposed to a flat dollar fee for payment. This way the fee will adjust annually based on valuation.

- Discussion of the Ambulance Agreement.

The committee is beginning discussions with the ambulance service to better understand the service provided and the impact of calls outside the Grinnell service area.

- Discussion of parking on 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue from Park Street to East Street.

Wilson requested staff research implementing no parking on the south side of 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue from Park Street to East Street. He feels the markings and signs posted are not consistent and the intermittent parking poses problems during the winter season for the snow plows. No action will be taken until this summer.

#### E. Mayor's Committee Appointment Recommendations:

Moved by WHITE, second by WITT, to approve the Mayor's appointment of Max Worthington and Larry Ryan to the Grinnell Airport Zoning Commission. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: White, Witt, Worley, Wright, Wilson, McNaul. Motion carried.

Moved by MCNAUL, second by WORLEY, to approve the Mayor's appointment of Paul Pohlson and Michael Winchell to the Grinnell Housing Authority. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: McNaul, Worley, White, Wilson, Wright, Wilson, Witt. Motion carried.

Moved by WHITE, second by WORLEY, to approve the Mayor's appointment of Denise Lamphier to the Stewart Library Board. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: White, Worley, Witt, McNaul, Wilson, Wright. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS: None.

#### SECOND READING OF THE ORDINANCES:

Moved by MCNAUL, second by WORLEY, to conduct the second reading of Ordinance No. 1264: "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 774 BY CHANGING CERTAIN DISTRICTS SHOWN ON THE OFFICIAL ZONING MAP." (The ordinance refers to the 6.608 acres in the city of Grinnell, Iowa owned by Grinnell Enterprises, LLC.) Roll Call Vote: Ayes: McNaul, Worley, Wright, Wilson, Witt, White. Motion carried.

Moved by WHITE, second by WILSON, to conduct the second reading of Ordinance No. 1265: "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE "MUNICIPAL CODE OF THE CITY OF GRINNELL, IOWA BY AMENDING PROVISIONS PERTAINING TO CHAPTER 13, SECTION 13-508 (PARKING RESTRICTIONS.)" (This ordinance refers to additional no parking provisions near Fairview School.) Roll Call Vote: Ayes: White, Wilson, McNaul, Witt, Wright, Worley. Motion carried.

#### APPROVAL AND ADOPTION OF THE RESOLUTIONS:

Moved by WORLEY, second by MCNAUL, to approve and adopt Resolution No. 2931: "A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS AS SUBMITTED FOR PROPERTY AND REQUEST TAX EXEMPTION FOR THIS IMPROVEMENT ACCORDING TO CHAPTER 404 OF THE STATE CODE (Grinnell Iowa Assisted Living Facility LLC, 229 Pearl Street.)" Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Worley, McNaul, White, Witt, Wright, Wilson. Motion carried.

#### INQUIRIES:

Lucille Ahrens, 1005 Broad Street, questioned if the unfinished construction items in the Central Business District will proceed in April. Behrens confirmed as long as the weather is conducive to construction the project will proceed.

#### REPORT FROM THE CITY MANAGER:

Behrens commented in regard to an industrial prospect. He hopes to share more information following the site visit. Staff continues to work with Manatt's to prepare estimates for improvements to the Subway alley and other street work.

Canfield reviewed his visit to Donaldson Corporation in Minnesota to discuss with them the rumors of relaxed production in the Grinnell plant. He confirmed there are no plans at this time to close the Grinnell plant. They did confirm the quality of production in Grinnell is the highest of any of their other plants. They also feel the workers are very highly skilled.

Behrens concluded his report by updating the council in regard to the purchase of rural water accounts. The area has been expanded to include two additional areas based on proposed developments.

#### ADJOURN:

Moved by MCNAUL, second by WHITE to adjourn this regular session of the Grinnell City Council at 8:15 pm. Vote: (6) ayes, motion carried.

#### ATTEST:

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Gordon Canfield, Mayor

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Cassandra R. Hage, City Clerk